

# Levels Of Evacuation

## Level 1 Get Ready

Pack your valuables. Include important documents such as passports, birth certificates, insurance information, medications, medical equipment and animal vaccination records.

## Level 2 Be Set

Monitor the news. Follow Multnomah County Sheriff's Office and Multnomah County Emergency Management's social media pages, local tv and radio news broadcasts.

## Level 3 GO!

Evacuate – information will be provided regarding where you can go to get information, resources, and support.

People who need help or more time to evacuate should evacuate at level 1 or 2. This includes **assisted living centers, people with disabilities, people needing help with small children and people with medical conditions.**

# Level 1: Get Ready

## Pre-Evacuation Preparation Steps

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### If time allows – during Level 1 Evacuation (Get Ready)

When an evacuation is anticipated, follow this checklist (if time allows) to give your home the best chance of surviving a wildfire.

#### Inside

- Shut windows and doors
- Remove flammable window shades, curtains and close metal shutters.
- Remove lightweight curtains.
- Move flammable furniture to the center of the room, away from windows and doors.
- Shut off gas at the meter; turn off pilot lights. Only a certified technician from your local gas company can turn the gas on again.
- Leave your lights on so firefighters can see your house under smoky conditions.
- Shut off the air conditioning.

#### Outside

- Gather flammable items from the exterior of the house and bring them inside (patio furniture, children's toys, doormats, trash cans, etc.) or place them in an in-ground pool.
- Turn off propane tanks.
- Move propane BBQ appliances away from structures.
- Connect garden hoses to outside water valves or spigots for use by firefighters. Fill water buckets and place them around the house.
- Don't leave sprinklers on or water running, they can affect critical water pressure.
- Leave exterior lights on so your home is visible to firefighters in the smoke or darkness of night.
- Put your Emergency Supply Kit in your vehicle.
- Back your car into the driveway with vehicle loaded and all doors and windows closed. Carry your car keys with you.
- Have a ladder available and place it at the corner of the house for firefighters to quickly access your roof.
- Seal attic and ground vents with pre-cut plywood or commercial seals.
- Patrol your property and monitor the fire situation. Don't wait for an evacuation order if you feel threatened.

#### Animals

- Locate your pets and keep them nearby.
- Prepare farm animals for transport and think about moving them to a safe location early.

#### Neighbors

- Check on neighbors and make sure they are preparing to leave, especially neighbors who may need extra assistance (i.e. people with medical needs, people with disabilities, children, seniors)

## Level 2: Be Set

# How to Prepare For Evacuation

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**When immediate evacuation is necessary, follow these steps as soon as possible to get ready to GO!**

### **When to Evacuate:**

Leave as soon as evacuation is recommended by fire officials to avoid being caught in fire, smoke or road congestion. Don't wait to be ordered by authorities to leave. Evacuating the forest fire area early helps firefighters keep roads clear of congestion, and lets them move more freely. In an intense wildfire, they will not have time to knock on every door. If you are advised to leave, don't hesitate!

- Review your Evacuation Plan Checklist.
- Ensure your Emergency Supply Kit is in your vehicle.
- Officials will determine areas to be evacuated and escape routes depending on the fire's location, behavior, winds, and terrain.
- Law enforcement agencies are responsible for enforcing an evacuation order. Follow their directions promptly.
- You will be advised of potential evacuations as early as possible. You must take the initiative to stay informed and aware. Listen to your radio/TV for announcements from law enforcement and emergency personnel.

**Do not return to your home until fire officials determine it is safe.** Notification that it is safe to return home will be given as soon as possible considering safety and accessibility.

# Level 3: GO!

## What to Do When Evacuating

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- **Follow the directions of law enforcement.**
- Cover-up to protect against heat and flying embers. Wear long pants, long sleeve shirt, heavy shoes/boots, cap, dry bandanna for face cover, goggles or glasses. 100% cotton is preferable.
- Take your pets with you.

### What to Do If You Become Trapped:

#### In your vehicle:

- Stay calm.
- Park your vehicle in an area clear of vegetation.
- Close all vehicle windows and vents.
- Cover yourself with wool blanket or jacket.
- Lie on vehicle floor.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—call 911.

#### On foot:

- Stay calm.
- Go to an area clear of vegetation, a ditch or depression on level ground if possible.
- Lie face down, cover up your body.
- Use your cell phone to advise officials—call 911.

#### In your home:

- Stay calm, keep your family together.
- Call 911 and inform authorities of your location.
- Fill sinks and tubs with cold water.
- Keep doors and windows closed, but unlocked.
- Stay inside your house.
- Stay away from outside walls and windows.

# Prepare for the future:

# Create a Wildfire Action Plan

Your Wildfire Action Plan must be prepared, and familiar to all members of your household well in advance of a wildfire. Use the checklist below to help create your plan. Each family's plan will be different, depending on a variety of issues, needs, and situations.

## Your Wildfire Action Plan Checklist

### Create an evacuation plan that includes:

- A designated emergency meeting location outside the fire or hazard area. This is critical to determine who has safely evacuated.
- Several escape routes from your home and community. Practice these often so everyone in your family is familiar in case of emergency.
- Have an evacuation plan for pets and livestock.
- A Family Communication Plan that designates an out-of-area friend or relative as a point of contact to act as a single source of communication among family members in case of separation. (It is easier to call or message one person and let them contact others than to try and call everyone when phone, cell, and internet systems can be overloaded or limited during a disaster.)

### Be Prepared:

- Have fire extinguishers on hand and train your family how to use them (check expiration dates regularly).
- Ensure that your family knows where your gas, electric, and water main shut-off controls are located and how to safely shut them down in an emergency.
- Assemble an Emergency Supply Kit.
- Maintain a list of emergency contact numbers in a common living area and in your emergency supply kit.
- Keep an extra Emergency Supply Kit in your car in case you cannot get to your home because of fire or other emergency.
- Have a portable radio or scanner so you can stay updated on the fire.
- Tell your neighbors about Ready, Set, Go! and your Wildfire Action Plan.

# Remember the Six “P’s”

Keep these six “P’s” ready in case immediate evacuation is required:



**People and pets**



**Papers,**  
phone numbers, and  
important documents



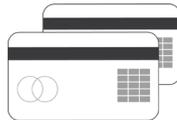
**Prescriptions,**  
vitamins, and eyeglasses



**Pictures,**  
and irreplaceable memorabilia



**Personal computer**  
hard drive and disks



**Plastic,**  
(credit cards, ATM cards) and cash

## When Is It Safe To Go Back?

The Multnomah County Sheriff’s office will notify you when the evacuation is lifted via:

- Facebook ([facebook.com/multcoso](https://facebook.com/multcoso)),
- Twitter ([twitter.com/MultCoSO](https://twitter.com/MultCoSO)),
- FlashAlert ([flashalert.net/regions/portland-vancouver-salem](https://flashalert.net/regions/portland-vancouver-salem)) or
- PublicAlerts

PublicAlerts can send you notifications about emergencies that affect you and your neighbors, such as wildfires.

- To sign up, Multnomah County residents should go to [PublicAlerts.org/signup](https://PublicAlerts.org/signup) and click on the link to Portland, Gresham and Multnomah County.

